



# **PFT HEALTH & WELFARE FUND NEWSLETTER**

FALL, 2023 UPDATE



Dear PFT Health and Welfare Fund Member:

Included is updated information on your Health and Welfare Fund benefits. This newsletter focuses on improved dental coverage, Health Advocate, and the Healthy Schools Tracker mobile app.

Healthcare provisions of the PFT Local 3 contract are available online at [www.pfthw.org](http://www.pfthw.org). If you have more questions, you can always call the PFT Health & Welfare Fund office at (215) 561-2722.

In solidarity,

*Arthur G. Steinberg*

ARTHUR G. STEINBERG, CHIEF TRUSTEE, PFT HEALTH & WELFARE FUND

## DENTAL UPGRADE

Listening to members' concerns led us to conduct a thorough analysis of our Dental Insurance. Once the study concluded, we were able to achieve our goal of increasing access to network providers, allowing you to conveniently receive quality dental care.

Not only did we significantly increase the number of participating specialists, general dental allowances were raised to the level of Concordia's premier network.

Being responsible stewards of Fund resources allows us to absorb the additional millions of dollars in expenses the Fund will incur without reducing current benefits.

Please remember that utilization drives costs.

This chart demonstrates provider growth across Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

States	Specialty	Locations	Individuals	Access points
Pennsylvania	Endodontists			
	Current PFT Network	7	15	18
	Parnet Additions	35	48	69
	Total	42	63	87
Pennsylvania	Periodontists			
	Current PFT Network	45	41	62
	Parnet Additions	18	19	21
	Total	63	60	83
New Jersey	Endodontists			
	Current PFT Network	0	0	0
	Parnet Additions	100	48	259
	Total	100	48	259
New Jersey	Periodontists			
	Current PFT Network	3	3	3
	Parnet Additions	142	69	136
	Total	145	72	139

## VIRUS SEASON IS HERE: HOW TO STAY HEALTHY

Vaccines are now available for the three viruses responsible for the most hospitalizations – **Flu**, **COVID-19** and the new **RSV** vaccine. \*\*Present your medical insurance card (not your prescription card) when obtaining vaccinations.\*\*

### FLU VACCINE

**Everyone ages 6 months and older** should get a flu shot every fall, especially high-risk groups like young children, pregnant people, people age 65+, those with weakened immune systems, and caregivers for high-risk individuals.

### COVID-19 VACCINE

Everyone 6 months or older should get an updated COVID-19 vaccine.

- **Everyone age 5+** should get one dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine at least two months after getting the last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.

- **People who are immunocompromised** may get additional doses of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.

- **Children aged 6 months to 4 years** may need multiple doses of the COVID-19 vaccine; consult your child's pediatrician.

### RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)

RSV is a common virus that can also cause more severe illness with wheezing or lung infection in babies, toddlers, and elderly people. The RSV vaccine is recommended for adults 60+, pregnant people, infants, and young children. Consult your doctor.

### TURN TO HEALTH ADVOCATE

The PFT Health & Welfare Fund partners with Health Advocate to help you with a wide range of important and time-consuming issues... at no cost to you! Employees, spouses, dependents, parents and parents-in-law are all eligible to use their services. Their experts can:

- Clarify and answer questions about the latest vaccines
  - Find the right in-network doctors
  - Coordinate second opinions
  - Resolve medical claims and billing issues
- And more!*

*Help is just a phone call away.*

📞 877.324.0255

🌐 [www.HealthAdvocate.com/pfthw](http://www.HealthAdvocate.com/pfthw)

✉ [answers@HealthAdvocate.com](mailto:answers@HealthAdvocate.com)

## PFT HEALTHY SCHOOLS TRACKER

The PFT Healthy Schools Tracker app is a tool which was designed to give building occupants a vehicle to share facility deficiencies in real time. It is intended to supplement the District's work order system, not replace it. Problems must be reported to the School District. Since launching the app in October 2018, there have been 3,840 problems reported by 1,242 users across 204 schools, resulting in an 82% clearance rate!

### GET STARTED

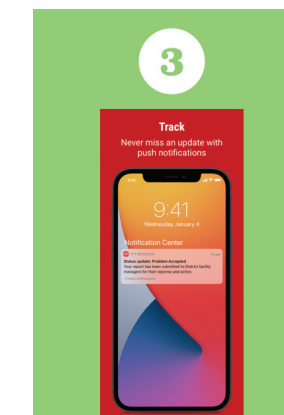
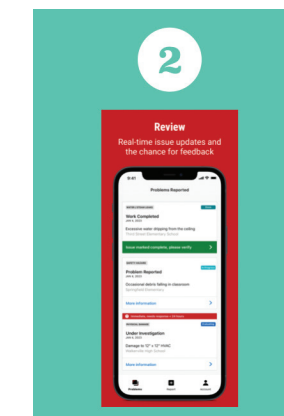
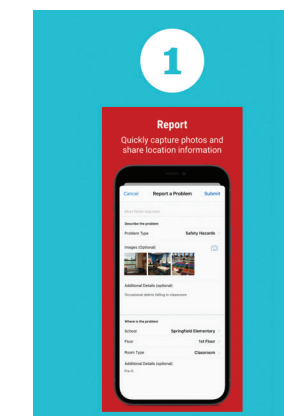
- 1) Download the FREE app from the App Store or Google Play
  - 2) Open the app, then choose a school. Register to ensure you can see your reports in the future and receive notifications of any change in status
- The PFT Healthy Schools Trackers is so easy to use:**
- 1) Open & launch the app if you see a problem
  - 2) Select a Problem Type from the menu
  - 3) Take some photos to document the problem
  - 4) Provide any descriptive details you think important
  - 5) Let us know where the problem is - select your school, the floor, room type, room location
  - 6) Hit submit

The PFT Environmental team will review the report, provide necessary comments and input, and send it to the District and follow up until it is fixed. You'll be able to track the status of the issue until it is resolved.

The PFT also collects, analyzes and summarizes the data from the app to help prioritize and provide summaries to the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) to promptly fix.

### PFT TRACKER



The PFT Reporter App lets you report environmental conditions in your school.



PFT HEALTH & WELFARE FUND  
1816 CHESTNUT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103  
0124G23C

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SED



 (215) 561-2722 |  (215) 561-8345 |  [www.pfthw.org/contact/](http://www.pfthw.org/contact/)